

Reading Response Journals

What is a reading response journal?

A reading response journal is a notebook in which you write about your reading. In it you communicate thoughts and feelings about the book you are reading. Think of the journal as a window for me to look through to see what you are thinking.

What are the expectations?

- Date each entry and write the title of the book, pages and minutes read.
- Write, on average, a page, although the length may vary.
- Proofread your responses before turning them in.
- Produce **three** thoughtful responses each week.
- Reflect on the comments that I write in your journal.

What are the qualities of a “thoughtful, well-written responses”? In each entry you should:

- Use language to communicate your thoughts clearly. The writing flows smoothly from idea to idea.
- Demonstrate an understanding of a text by making inferences and connections and going back to the text to support your ideas.
- Use conventions of print (spelling, punctuation, grammar, capitalization and organization) in a standard way.

What can you write about in your journal?

- Make predictions about what will happen next.
- Write from the main character’s perspective.
- Agree or disagree with the message of the text.
- Show a personal reaction to the story.
- Explain strategies that you used.
- Describe the main character’s personality.
- Comment on how a character had changed.
- Relate the text to your personal life.
- Compare the text to another text the author has written.
- Explain why you liked or disliked the text.
- Comment on the mood of the story or the author’s use of language.
- Describe how a passage in the text created an image in your mind.

***If there is anything you think about while reading that you feel strongly about, you should always feel free to write about that.

READING RESPONSE JOURNALS

Open response- students freely respond as they wish

Prompted- the teacher provides a question or statement for the student to write a response.

Turn the question around into a response. (more than one sentence)

Good Reader's Response

1. Topic sentence- turn the question around into a topic sentence.
2. Address the question- does it answer all parts of the question.
3. Find and use specific details from the story for support.
4. Make connections and inferences to answer the question.
5. Correct sentence structure and punctuation.

OTHER

Open-ended response

Expository text

Double entry journals (summary/opinion)

Respond to something funny, interesting, sad, exciting, weird, confusing, or something that they themselves/other text/world can connect to.

Double-Entry Journal	
Quotation-A phrase or sentence I especially like.	My thoughts about the quotation.